

Introduction

KRS 164.020(3) requires the Council on Postsecondary Education to prepare an annual accountability report for the Governor, the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), and the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education (SCOPE). The purpose of the report is to inform policy makers, legislators, and taxpayers of system-wide and institutional progress in advancing the Public Agenda and the mandates of the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997*, or House Bill 1 (HB1), as well as reviewing initiatives to be undertaken during the next year.

2004-05 Accountability Report

The structure of this year's accountability report has changed to provide concise year-to-year, comparative, and historical progress on key indicators of reform that reflect state needs, as defined by the five questions of the Public Agenda and HB 1.

The report includes the following:

- An executive summary of key performance indicators organized around the five questions of the Public Agenda.
- Data and highlights of state and institution key performance indicators including year-to-year comparisons, comparative data such as Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states or national norms, and historical trends.
- Brief descriptions of selected state and institution initiatives to be undertaken in the coming year to enhance performance, including how success will be measured.
- A section linking the five questions of the Public Agenda to the six goals of HB 1.

2005-2010 Public Agenda

House Bill 1 requires the Council to review its Public Agenda every four years. A review of the strategic plan began in early 2004 with an analysis of demographic, economic, and education data from 1997 to 2004. Nine regional forums and a series of meetings with state policy, civic, and business leaders were held to discuss the role of Kentucky's postsecondary and adult education system in addressing the challenges and issues facing the Commonwealth.

Five Questions - One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People reflects what the Council heard from concerned, engaged citizens across the state and learned from its analysis. This new Public Agenda will guide the work of Kentucky adult and postsecondary education through 2010. The plan emphasizes accountability, degree completion, and affordability, and is built around the new five questions of reform:

Question 1: Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

Question 2: Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for its citizens?

Question 3: Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?

Question 4: Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?

Question 5: Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?

Additionally, the Public Agenda includes campus action plans from the eight public postsecondary institutions, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities that outline each institution's mission parame-

ters, priorities for action, and key indicators of progress. A link to the campus action plans, along with other Council and institutional resources related to accountability and planning, are included in Appendix A and B of this report.

When revising the key indicators for the 2005-10 Public Agenda, the Council staff worked to refine the current accountability system while preserving its established strengths. Thus, the overall structure continues to be five questions that present a broad range of policy issues in concise, everyday language. The total number of indicators remains small to focus attention where it will most help reform efforts and prevent policymakers from drowning in a sea of statistics. As before, goals will be set for each of these indicators at the institutional and state levels. The Council staff sought input from an advisory group of institutional and state government representatives throughout the development of this accountability system and held

additional meetings to solicit feedback from other interested parties.

The result is a streamlined set of key indicators that delineates progress first at the state level and then at the institutional level by type of institution. State-level indicators answer each of the five questions in the broadest sense, presenting the “big picture” outcomes of postsecondary education and ensuring Kentucky’s ability to compare its progress to that of other states. Tailored sets of sector-specific key indicators—for research universities, comprehensive universities, KCTCS, and the independent institutions—better reflect the divergent missions of the different types of institutions as set out in HB 1.

House Bill 1 Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 Six Goals – 2020 Strategic Plan	
Goal 1	A seamless, integrated system of postsecondary education strategically planned and adequately funded to enhance economic development and quality of life.
Goal 2	A major comprehensive research institution ranked nationally in the top twenty (20) public universities at the University of Kentucky.
Goal 3	A premier, nationally-recognized metropolitan research university at the University of Louisville.
Goal 4	Regional universities, with at least one (1) nationally recognized program of distinction or one (1) nationally recognized applied research program, working cooperatively with other postsecondary education institutions to assure statewide access to baccalaureate and master’s degrees of a quality at or above the national average.
Goal 5	A comprehensive community and technical college system with a mission that assures, in conjunction with other postsecondary institutions, access throughout the Commonwealth to a two-year course of general studies designed for transfer to a baccalaureate program, the training necessary to develop a workforce with the skills to meet the needs of new and existing industries, and remedial and continuing education to improve the employability of citizens.
Goal 6	An efficient, responsive, and coordinated system of autonomous institutions that delivers educational services to citizens in quantities and of a quality that is comparable to the national average.